Dorchester, Dec. 8, 1864.

Dear Miss Weston,

Your letter came to my hands yesterday. I have been spending a week in Hingham, & it was taken out of the Office sometime during my absence. I learned there for the first time, that you did not return to your school at the close of the vacation. I knew nothing of your anxiety & ceaseless watchings. I had heard that Lucia was not well, but I was not aware that her friends had had cause of anxiety or even that she had been much sick. I think if there ever was one that gave her life for others, you are that one. How you are to survive another campaign at the Fair, worn down as you must be with anxiety labor and care, I know not. The main burden seems to rest on your shoulders, notwithstanding there are so many people of leisure who are willing to do what they can.

As to the request that you make that I would assist you at the Refreshment table, I am perfectly willing to do it if you cannot obtain a better hand. I am happy to go if I have a part to perform that no one else can so well do, & that no one wishes to do; but I do not desire to go as a supernumerary for such people are very troublesome where work is to be done. I had not thought of being at the Fair more than a few hours this season. I wish I had known before that

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you wanted me, as I could with rather better grace have asked people, that are almost strangers to me, for contributions, if they knew that I had any more interest that any & every other abolitionists in the success of the Fair. However, I have intended all along to aid you in that department by sending cake and other eatables, & I shall this day send a note to Neponsett village to see what they will do for us, and also to Mr. Richard Clapp. I do not know the mines of abolitionists at all in this place. I know the men some what, and I shall appeal to them. I wish we could have a good table & with considerable previous exertion I think we might. I returned yesterday from Hingham & I could have asked them for cake, pastry, &c. but I supposed they were doing what they thought they could and I did not feel authorized to ask as I do now, if I should see any of them. They are having a sewing circle and are doing what they can towards furnishing a table. I donot know whether I ought to go in the morning of the Fair or monday afternoon. I do not know whether you have had convenient arrangements for making coffee, & tea, heating water &c. if you have, there may be nothing to do but bring these same arrangements directly into operation. But if there are new & different arrangements to be made, I ought to be upon the spot early. I think if I do not hear anything from you, I will go in monday afternoon

and do what I can. As to staying with you, I do not know what to say. I should be very happy to, as Mrs Whites house is pretty full this winter & I told her that I should not be there during the Fair. On the other hand, I know you have a great many to accommodate and to look after at that time, however, it need not be finally settled to day, where ever I stay, I can put up with very few accommodations & shall give my friends, I hope, very little trouble. While I was in Kingsham, Mr. Russell gave a very fine discourse upon Anti-Slavery at the new Town-house, that has lately been erected upon the Town-plain. It was a large and new audience for an Anti Slavery meeting many being present for the first time. Mr R explained the present position of the old organized abolitionists (said by the way that he had no sympathy with any other organization) showed the various steps they had taken to bring them to their present position in regard to church & state, their views respecting colonization, voting, &c. in fact it was a perfect justification of all that they had done. The people sat very patiently for two full hours, and listened, & ended with clapping of hands. Mr. Spear had two quite interesting meetings upon capital punishment. Marin & Mr. Smith send much love to you. Mr. Smith is quite a farmer this winter takes care of two cows milks &c &c. Do Caroline take good care of yourself. I have not burned your letter but I have done better, I have forgotten what you wrote that did not relate to yourself.

Yours sincere friend E. H. L. Smith

Dorchester Mass
Dec 9

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Miss Caroline Weston,

New Bedford.

Care of John F. Emerson.

MS.A.1.2.30.118